

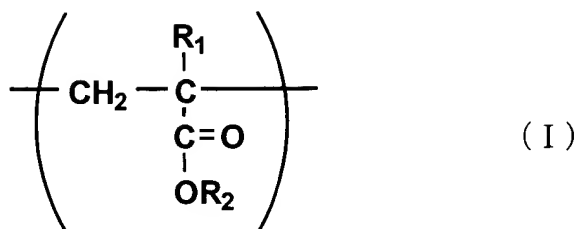
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a poly(meth)acrylate having a reduced metal content and in which a bound site to (meth)acrylic acid is a tertiary carbon or in which said site is an acetal,

which comprises contacting a mixture of a poly(meth)acrylate in which a bound site to (meth)acrylic acid is a tertiary carbon or in which said site is an acetal and an organic solvent with an acidic aqueous solution obtained by dissolving a ~~polyprotic carboxylic acid having about 2 to 12 carbon atoms~~ oxalic acid in water.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the poly(meth)acrylate has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,000 to 100,000.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the poly(meth)acrylate is a resin having a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R<sub>2</sub> represents 2-methyl-2-propyl, 1-adamantyl, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl, 2-ethyl-2-adamantyl, 2-hydroxy-2-adamantyl, 1-methoxyethyl, 1-ethoxyethyl or 1-tetrahydropyranyl.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 3, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen ~~and~~ or methyl.

5-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein R<sub>2</sub> represents 1-adamantyl, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl, 2-ethyl-2-adamantyl or 3-hydroxy-2-adamantyl.

9-10. (Cancelled)